



4

Hitohira

IDUMI
KIRIHARA



3

IDUMI KIRIHARA

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THE CITY OF THE THEATER GROUP'S BIG PLAY IS FINALLY HERE. RELUCTANTLY CAST IN THE LEAD ROLE, SUPER-SHY MUMI ARII WILL SOON FIND HERSELF IN FRONT OF AN AUDIENCE AND WILL HAVE TO FACE HER BIGGEST FEAR. ALTHOUGH SHE ENJOYS ACTING NOW AND DOESN'T WANT TO LET HER FRIENDS DOWN, HOW WILL SHE HOLD UP WHEN HER MOMENT IN THE SPOTLIGHT ARRIVES? AFTER THE PLAY, WHAT STAGE AWARDS MUMI NEXT?



I wasn't crying!
How dare you think that!

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AGES 13+

TEEN

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Hitohira 3

IDUMI KIRIHARA

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For This Day ~
Chapter 16













You're being selfish

Is this about you or the good of the play?

What's she seeing so obvious?

Wouldn't it be easier for her if she just gave up?



You'd really let the play bomb just so you could be on stage again?



I won't

Nono



Nono's been working so hard for this act.

May it

but...

...then why do they play at all?



If she loses her voice... she can give us a sign, and we'll improvise.

She has to stay on stage with us

Nono's worked harder on this play than any of us. She's our leader!

What if we improvise?



Let's
do this!

Ready?



OK,
then

Besides,
we've known
about Hono's
condition all
along...

We're all
in this
together



I'm with
you on
this one



Well,
you're the
ones who
came up
with the
idea

Why-?!!
Why-?
Why-?



Right.
What kind of
sign do you
want Hono
to give you?



Yeah,
if you two think
incarnation is
the answer.

...then fine.
I guess you
guys are in
charge of that
department.









Those girls
behind us are
pretty
sassy.

YAMEN



Her
voice? Hmmm.
I guess...

You do
know
there's a
difference
between
conversation
and acting,
right?

Oh yeah?
How
was it?



Hey!
You guys
just wait
and see!



Hmm?
Hm?

I'm fine,
really.

You
sleepy,
babe?



But I
never said
I wanted
to watch
this...

Really?
I'm
not!

I wanna
watch
anything my
Kyo wants
to watch!

LOVE POWER!







I can't
even sleep...

This is
so not
good,
it's bad...

She's
really
nervous...

Heh

Why the
world
is so
unfair...

Get those
thoughts
out of
your tiny
heads!

...why
everybody
else looks
so happy

We
reid our
minds!

Can't
really hear
what she's
saying up
there...

Saki,
nnnnnnnnnn!

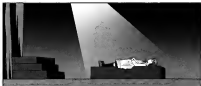
It
doesn't
have to
be this
way!

If this is all
life has to
offer, I've
had enough

I give
up

Please stop
drinking.

Stop
drinking!





PULL

Ahhhhh!
Who are
you?!



Have
you ever
thought
about
that?



I'm a friend.
We're
all your
friends.

You've
got used
to worry



Friend?



Wh-
what?

She's
supposed
to let
go of my
hand.

My name
is Shuna.



Just not
any more
of!

They're
all here
with me.

I thought
I had no
friends



I'm
OK
now.



It's not
always a good
actress

It seems
like Mugi's
feeling more
comfortable
now

And
Lemon
is here.



We're just a
ragtag trio of
cute girls
who spread
happiness



NOO
OFF



I'll
introduce
you to
them

And
Lemon's
the guy
with the
world's
only

That
wonderful
popular
girl is
Mami



STRAIGHT
THROUGH

How
dare
you?
Give it
back!

That's
my
diary!

INOOOO!

アホなアホな



It's just that
you can't
touch what
only you
can see

No
don't she
directly
tell you
what we
are?

What just
happened?
Are you
ghosts?

... we'll have
to tell you
one more
time





THE SIGN?!





Everybody
understand?

OK then,
if Mono loses
her voice in
the middle
of the play...

...she's
gonna
give us
a clear
sign.

NOB
hwy

NOB
hwy

Are we all
on the same
page?



WIND
OR

Mono...?



ヒトキリ
HITOKIRI





Only Me, Now Chapter 17



DID YOU
REALLY...?



SLAP



WHAT..?

THROB

Y
2008







I've seen
Hana and
the others
tell her
that over
and over.

Mug knows
she's gotta
shake it off
and perform
like it's part
of the act.



Oh, no!
I'm definitely
feeling some
bad vibes from
the audience.



I know
her...

She won't
bark to you
until you
change your
attitude!



Fairies
don't
lose their
voices.

She's just
suffered at your
negativity and
passionism!





A LIFE.

I GOTTA SAY
SOMETHING.

CAN'T
THINK.

MY MIND
IS BLANK.

Nothing.

And what if
you forget
one of
your list?





And I know
I'm gonna
forget for
sure!

Anything
can happen
up there...

You've
taught me,
but I still
don't know
what I'd
do...



If this would
have happened
an hour from
now, I'd be
off stage.

And I know
I'm gonna
forget for
sure!



I know
I'd love
my voice
eventually.

But...

...why
does it
have to be
right now,
on stage?



How if you could only apply that positivity to your acting, you wouldn't forget your lines.

Mysterious Mugg...

How can you be so positively unconfident?



SHE DOES ME THE FAVOR OF SCOLDING ME... OFTEN.

RYOBUKI NAKAGAKI



Your unintelligible cussing is better for distracting the audience's attention!

Right, you teach her to improvise... You're good at making up semi-interesting talk off the top of your head.



HE SUPPORTS ME, EVEN WHEN I DON'T BELIEVE IT.

TAKASHI KAMUROHARA

Shut up,
pipsqueak!

See, you're always
so rough and
straight forward.

He's noisy,
but HE
UNDERSTANDS
THE FEELINGS
OF OTHERS.

KAT
FENHEDA

Oh
Miser
Apat.

I can't
help but
worry
about
that.

...that if I can't
remember one
of my lines,
it's also bleak
out on making
up my own?

But ...
...have
you
con-
sid-
ered...

Are
FINALLY...



When she's nervous,
she curls up
into a ball.



She's the
sweetest
person I've
ever met.



She can't
handle
herself.



...but her
voice can be
powerful
and her
performance
is sincere.

She's an
amazing
actor...



SHE'S
STRUGGLED,
BUT SHE
HASN'T
GIVEN UP.

SHE REMINDS
ME OF WHAT
I WAS,
BEFORE
THEATER
CHANGED ME.

I FELT LIKE
I HAD TO
BE TOUGH
ON HER.



SHE'S
COME A
LONG WAY.

TO HERE...
TO THIS
STAGE...
TO THIS VERY
MOMENT.



All of
them...

...FOLLOWED
ME HERE, AND
BECAUSE OF
THAT, I CAN BE
ON STAGE, TOO.





I DON'T CARE
IF I LOSE
MY VOICE...

I got it.
We can
feed you
lines that'll
make you
remember
your line.



I MET YOU
AT THIS
SCHOOL
AND HERE...

YOU GAVE
ME THEATER,
AND IT GAVE
ME HOPE.

IF YOU
HATE ME...
IF WE
ARGUE...

EVER
SOME
ONE

Don't
you

you have
nothing

to say



I WANTED
TO KEEP
ACTING!

...at least

...let us
help you!





THAT
VOICE...
IT'S
POSSIBLE...

YOU'VE
GIVEN
YOURSELF...



Don't...!



I CAN'T
LET HER
DOWN!
NOT NOW!

All my
friends!



I TRIED TO
WASH YOU...

Hee...

She's
trying so
hard...
for me.



I won't!



I believe in you!

1





*You're
absolutely
right about
my attitude!*



*I believe
you can
help me to
be happy,
so change
me!*



She
FOUND IT!

TREMBLE



Well?!

*Let me
see you
do it!*



*SHE WAS A NORMAL GEM WHO HATED BEING
THE CENTER OF ATTENTION.*



*BUT WITH LOTS OF EFFORT AND SUPPORT
ON THE PART OF HER FRIENDS...*



HERE SHE IS, RIGHT NOW...

Went Forget The Day Chapter 13







MAYBE IT
WAS JUST THAT
SHE SUDDENLY
SPOKE LOUDLY...
PEOPLE MAY
EVEN SAY
THAT IT WAS
NOTHING.



IT WAS A
MOMENT...
NO, A
SOUND...
TO REMIND.



...
TRANSFORMED
THE MOOD OF
THE ENTIRE
HALL.



BUT,
HER
VOICE
...



...TO FOCUS
ON THE GIRL
WHOSE VOICE
IT WAS.

AND
DOING
ALL
THIS...



SHE SEIZED
THE MOMENT.



EVEN
SUCCESS
AND
FAILURE



...RIPPED TO
THE BACK OF
HER MIND.



SHE LET
GO OF HER
THOUGHTS...
HER DOUBTS.

...love
you!
I always
have!



...FLOWED
NATURALLY...

I
couldn't
be
happier

Nothing

What's
wrong?





Another
time slot

It's OK
now,
do do

Oh...

Excuse me?

Where
are
you?



...THEY
WOULD BE
SHOCKED.

I haven't
thanked
you yet!

I'm
sorry!

I'm so
glad
to be
alive!



If only
those who
knew her
before...
could see
her now...

May?

Are you
gone
there?

I can't
see you
anymore!





But with
hope
it'll be all
right.

*I know I'll face
tough times,
because they
are a part
of life.*

*I've
found
joy, and
with it,
hope.*



...
exciting.

Sue...

...Rail...

*Maybe
you were all
just in my
imagination.*

But,
thank
you

SHINE





BRAVO!







Thank you very much!

The last scene was very touching.

It was really unusual.

CHATTER

There's a vote to decide which theater club will remain and which one will be disbanded.

If you liked our play, please vote for us and put it too in the box.

Muuug!!
?

Please fill out the questionnaire too.

Pens are over here.

TURN

Thank you very much!

The last scene was very touching

It was really unusual

CHATTER

There's a vote to decide which theater club will remain and which one will be disbanded

If you liked our play, please vote for us and put it in the box

Muuuug!!

Please fill out the questionnaire too

Pens are over here

TUM

Thank you very much!

The last scene was very touching

It was really unusual

CHATTER

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Please fill out the questionnaire too

Pens are over here

Muuugi!!

TUHO TUHO TUHO

Thank you very much!

The last scene was very touching

It was really unusual

CHATTER

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It was really unusual.

CHATTER

There's a vote to decide which theater club will remain and which one will be disbanded.

If you liked our play, please vote for us and put it in the box.

Please fill out the questionnaire too.

Pens are over here.

Muuugi!!

TUHO TUHO TUHO









BUT...
THE MOST IMPORTANT BATTLE HAS
JUST BEGUN.





Come up
and stand
before us!

So, the
heads
of both
clubs...

DRUM ROLL



Which
club will
remain?
We'll
soon find
out!



Shall be
fine.

Will Hideo
be (G)?

Shall be
fine.





Everybody
count
together...



One!

TOSS



Showdown Chapter 19



...AND WITH
THEIR OWN
PORES AND
DREAMS.

THE BALLS
WERE THROWN
DEWARDS...



THE
COUNTING
CONTINUED,
DYNTHICALLY.



THE
NUMBER
CLIMBED,
UNTIL...







We have
our winner!
The Official
Theater
Group!

They will
remain as
our school's
sole theater
club!



Our
moment of
glad work
ended there.

It was
a huge
moment to
all of
us.













I don't
mean to bother
you.



Are you
OK?



Just two
days later...

...with
the cane
to me...

I need
five
members
to make
a club.



Well, if
that's how
you feel,
why don't
you start
your own
club?

We
started
talking
for some
reason or
another.

I didn't
really
expect
anything
to come
of it.



I was
indecisive.

Not only was
she actually
doing it,
but she was
doing it well.



I laughed
at the
time.

Will I be
still in the
Theater
Group,
so are
you asking
me to quit?

Yes.

Ha
ha.

All
right,
I will.

You
are
sure?

NOSTALGIC



I never
knew you
were the
one who
planted
the idea
in her
head.

When I
look back
at it,
she really
caused
a lot of
trouble...

Let's
let's

REKKA
JOINED TWO
DAYS LATER.

I want
to join
your
club.

It's not some
important
thing I have
to confess to
all of you!

Wait a
minute.
You played
your own
part in the
whole thing.

You came to
us suddenly
even though
I don't know
why you
came at all.



How many
times do
I have to
tell you?
It's her life
and her
body!

You're
being
stupid!

I saw Miki
REALLY
DEPRESSED
AND ASKED
WHO WHO!

I just feel...
it's very
important.

BANG



That's the
best idea
you've
ever had!

I don't
even want
to try to
explain this
to you
anymore!

You should
just quit
and join
her!

Millions
of it was
going to
sack down

BANG



I wasn't
interested
in this at
all at first.

But, I learned
that acting
can be
pretty fun.

If you
say so...

Me
either.



No
comments
from the
press
calling!

That's
my act!

What
about
me?

What
about
me?



I don't
regret
any of it,
though.





GOTTEN
SPICY
AT EACH
OTHER...

WE'VE
LAUGHED
AT

CARED
AS



AND I
WAS REALLY
HURT.

HONO HAD
SOME REALLY
ROUGH
THINGS TO
ME.



I
GUESS...

...IT WAS
TOUGH
LOVE.

OUT...

I REALIZE
NOW.
THAT'S
HOW SHE
KNEW THAT
SHE CARED

After
All...

I...

I just feel
frustrated.

I ONLY
CAUSED THEM
TROUBLE.

Everybody
else tried
their best...

If I had
tried
harder
I could
have
done it!

If I had
practiced
more
seriously
from the
beginning .

I'm
sorry!

IT'S
ALL MY
FAULT!





Theater Group



me...

...hoping
that I
am home
with you.











Theater Group



Chitose's Challenge Chapter 20



THE
FESTIVAL'S
OVER AND
OUR CLUB IS
NO MORE.

SINCE THEN,
THERE'S
BEEN A BIG,
EMPTY HOLE
IN MY LIFE...

EVERYBODY
DOES
NOTHING
BUT STUDY
HARD

THE SENIORS
LOOK BUSY,
AND WORRIED
ABOUT THEIR
FUTURE.





WE ONLY GOT
TOGETHER
EVERY WEEK
BECAUSE OF
THE CLUB
ACTIVITIES.

THAT'S WHAT
KAI THINKS.
AND MAYBE
HE'S RIGHT.

AS FOR
KAI AND
ME...

...WE WENT
BACK TO OUR
NORMAL HIGH
SCHOOL LEVEL.







That's right.



It's just that
they're gonna
graduate soon.
That'll be our
last chance to
hang out with
them.



They'll
all come
only if
you invite
them.

Well?
Why
me?!

So I'll
bring
it up
to you
Mugi.

Please,
Mugi-
wugi!



UNDERSTAND?















It's just
NON-ALCOHOLIC
CHIPS!

GLUG GLUG
GLUG
トホホホ

You know
we're at
school,
right?

Dinner



おめでとう
クリスマス

Merry
Christmas!

トホホ
CLINK





TA-DAH!

I submitted
an absence
excuse!

Really?

Why
aren't
you in
class?!

Why not?!

And
what's
with
all the
glare?

Don't try
to borrow
money from
us in the
future.

It's your
dead-end
life after
all.

What
is
this?!

I have a bad
stomachache
so I can't
come today.
Please, please
understand!

It can't
be helped...
So
strong
Takashi...

Don't
cry for
me!

Well...

I just
hoped we
could all
graduate
together.









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When ya gotta go, ya gotta go.

Go where?



100

You still got some voice left in you.

Miyuki Miyake

Best Friends Chapter 21



...DON'T HAVE
ANY REGRETS
LATER IF YOU
CHOOSE TO
DO IT.

IN LIFE,
WHEN YOU
HAVE TWO
CHOICES...

...AND THOSE
CHOICES
ARE TO DO
SOMETHING
OR NOT DO
SOMETHING...

I MAY BE
REJECTED,
BUT I HAVE
TO TRY
FOR HIM...
THAT'S JUST
WHO I AM.

IT'S NOT
LIKE HE
TO HAVE
REGRETS!

MEN

CHOOSE
IT

RECEIVED
10/14

RECEIVED
10/14

10/14
STEP









TEARS

...TO KNOW
I CAN'T,
REALLY
HURT.

But...



Outside...

...IT'S
SNOWING
HARD.



LET'S
HAVE A
SNOWBALL
FIGHT.

SNIFGLE



YOU'RE A
PRETTY
GIRL.

YOU CAN
FIND A
BETTER
GUY.



You look pretty torn up.



That class was absolute torture!

They finally let me go!

PHEW!

Same



Hey, You're both in the restroom.

Why do you all look so jittery?

Hey, where's Takashi and Chizuko?

Just right!

Let's have a snowball fight!















She'd be
good for
you...



RISE

You
stood
right
there!



You like
looking
at girls
from that
angle?



Hana





Perfect!



You think this is big enough?

Kayo



Done!



Let's put a scarf on him

CRUNCH

And stories for his face



Greet!







JOLT







What?

What do you mean?

I won't be here...

...next year









We Were Together Chapter 22



And what
is your
New Year's
resolution?

To stay
single,
I guess



HA HA
HA HA
HA HA



Did you guys
have an
argument or
something?

You always
go to the
shrine with
Kazuo.

HA HA
HA HA
HA HA



HA HA
HA HA

AREN'T
YOU GOING
TO THE
SHRINE THIS
YEAR?







CHATTER

カ
カ

Ah

Ka!

Do I
look
weird?

Ka!

Oh,
I didn't
braid my
hair today

Huh?

I almost
didn't
recognize
you!







I have to give
Muji some
distance until
I go...













MYSSSSSS









I love it.



It's amazing
those greedy
priests
gave it out
for free.

New Year's is
the only time
we can drink
the hot,
sweet sake.



Yeah.

I feel
the same
way.

... recently,
I feel
kinda
bored.

You know,
things were
pretty hectic
at the beginning
of the school
year with the
theater club
and all, but...



They were
lively,
which made
us feel
lively.



We're
getting
older—
me too!

Chitose
and the Theater
Group are
having trouble
finding new
members.

She's upset
that we're
not gonna
join.



It's been
three
months
since it all
ended...

Time's
flying by
faster
and
faster.



He's in an
art school
and he's
gonna join
the Art
Club! How
stupor!

When I
men-
tioned
that you
were
joining
the Art
Club.

She
told
me.

Let's go
together!

She came
up to me
just to
say that,
too.





DISGUSTED!

You're
too
obsessed
with art!

You
arty-
farty
freak!

The
last
time!

I can
totally
picture
what she
looked
like.



What
are you
going
to?

Hot
game
on line
club?



I'm not
saying I
don't like
theater
though



After all,
I haven't
changed
much since
I started
school



There's
nothing I
really
want to
do...

I don't
think
so...

Shika
something
interesting
comes up







So...

You know what my personality is like, right?

She took care of me very well and I've always depended on her.



Yeah



When it's Kaya's turn to need help,

...I want to be the one who helps her



That's when her dad took her to a photo gallery, and she was inspired.

It's been her dream to be a photographer.

Ever since she was in elementary school



...closer
and closer
to her
dream.

Kazuo's
moving
forward.

TUMP



Kazuo

She told me
about her
plans at the
Christmas
party.

She said she
wanted me
to support
her decision.

What do
you think
I said
to her
at that
time?



While I'm
perplexed
by Kazuo's...

She'll
leave me
behind.

TUMP

She won't
ever need
my help.

TUMP



Nothing.
I didn't say
anything.



Supporting
her [points]
letting her
not help me
anymore.

I didn't
want her
to leave
me.

That was
all I could
think of.



Hitchhike Jr.

...in Mago's hand when she was in the record year of record record

Best...



Wah! Gotcher!

Kikyo

One day in winter...

That is against school regulations...

Ma. Aaaa!

STARTLED

Don't be mad! Your socks are really cute!

It's blood

You sure did!



But it is pretty weird!

Putting paint on your nails!

Also, it feels like I'm an adult.

I thought something weird was going on.

Being girl goes through this...

It's like a rite of passage.

Mom was just making fun of my nails.

Oh my!

It's her turn!

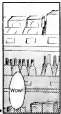
Lauren and making her!

It's her turn!



Yeah

Too many to choose from...



Wow

Hey!

Let's go buy some nail polish today!

BROWSING

